

shaped entrance slot of the first section of the twin wire zone;
20 said single first drainage element in the first section[, the
 curved drainage element] being a single forming roll having an
 open surface to enable drainage of water from the fiber
 suspension and being curved along the path of the belts through
 the twin wire zone, the [curved drainage element] single forming
25 roll being engaged by one of the wire belts[,] for curving the
 path of the belts around the [curved drainage element] single
 forming roll after the entrance of the suspension into the
 entrance slot;

30 the twin wire zone having a second section following the
 first section along the path of the belts through the twin wire
 zone; in the second section, a plurality of first drainage strips
 are positioned within the loop of the first wire belt and are for
 contacting the first wire belt; in the second section, a
 plurality of second drainage strips are positioned within the
 loop of the second wire belt and are for contacting the second
 wire belt; the first strips being shifted in position along the
 path of the wire belts with respect to the second strips so that
 the first and second strips are offset and in a non-opposing
 relationship; first support means for resiliently supporting the
 first drainage strips against the respective wire belt that the
 strips contact;

40 second support means supporting the second drainage
 strips rigidly against the second wire belt; and

 means for supplying a vacuum in the area of the second
 drainage strips;

45 the twin wire zone having a third section following the
 second section along the path of the wire belts through the twin
 wire zone; a second drainage element in the third section, for
 being engaged by one of the wire belts as the wire belts travel
 over the second drainage element, the second drainage element
 having an open surface to enable water to be drained through the
 wire belt in contact therewith; and

50 the twin wire zone apart from said [first drainage
 element which is a] single forming roll being free of rolls which
 deflect the twin wire zone.